

Ladies and Gentleman,

My name is John Colburn Jr. I live in the small town of Woodstock in the Northeast corner of Our state. For the past 26 1/2 years I have been a Volunteer Firefighter, currently holding the rank of Captain in the Muddy Brook Fire Dept. I am also the father of a 16 year old son and 14 year old daughter who are following in My footsteps. Like My father, I have brought My children up around firearms and taught them how to handle them safely and responsibly.

I am here today to express My opinion on the Gun Control Legislation before You. I believe these proposals are a direct attack on Our 2nd Amendment rights! If You pass them, how will they protect Our Children and the public? My belief is that they will Only affect law-abiding citizens such as myself! Criminals do not have waiting periods, or background checks or they would Not have them!

Parts of what I have read include a charge for long gun permits. Who do You think will pay those? The criminals? I highly doubt as they are already Prohibited from obtaining them Legally. It will be the law-abiding citizens like Myself and Everyone here! My question here is when do You start charging for the rest of Our Constitutional Rights? How many times are criminals stopped from buying a firearm? More times than they are prosecuted!

Some of the legislation that has been proposed appears to be Reactive, not Proactive. If You have a firearm stolen and used in a criminal way, You can be arrested and charged with a felony. I believe that there are laws and penalties regarding that now. How does this protect the children or the public? If this happens the damage has already been done!

I think the direction needs to be towards preventing the mentally unstable from getting a firearm. How? That I am not sure how to do, but would be a step in the right direction! The horrible event in Newtown was not done by a mentally stable law-abiding citizen with a legally owned firearm, and We should not be punished for that!

Thank You for your time.